



U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management
Kemmerer Field Office, Wyoming

January 2004

Kemmerer Field Office Planning Area

Scoping Report



It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

SCOPING REPORT

Kemmerer Field Office Planning Area

U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Kemmerer Field Office, Wyoming

January 2004

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Section</i>	<i>Page</i>
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
2.0 THE SCOPING PROCESS.....	1
2.1 Notifications	3
2.2 Scoping Meetings	4
2.3 Opportunities to Comment.....	5
2.4 Cooperating Agencies.....	6
2.5 Tribal Consultation	6
3.0 ISSUE SUMMARIES OF PUBLIC COMMENTS.....	7
3.1 Issue Summaries by Resource Revision Topic	7
3.1.1 Air Quality	8
3.1.2 Cultural Resources.....	8
3.1.3 Fire Management.....	9
3.1.4 Fish and Wildlife.....	10
3.1.5 Geology.....	12
3.1.6 Lands and Realty	12
3.1.7 Livestock Grazing	12
3.1.8 Mineral Resources	13
3.1.9 National Historic Trails	15
3.1.10 Off-Highway Vehicles	16
3.1.11 Paleontology.....	17
3.1.12 Recreation.....	17
3.1.13 Renewable Energy.....	17
3.1.14 Social and Economic Conditions.....	18
3.1.15 Soil	18
3.1.16 Special Designations	19
3.1.17 Special Status Species.....	19
3.1.18 Transportation and Access	20
3.1.19 Utility and Communication Corridors	21
3.1.20 Vegetation.....	21
3.1.21 Visual Resources.....	22
3.1.22 Water Resources	23
3.1.23 Alternatives.....	23
3.1.24 Content and Methodology	24
3.1.25 Purpose and Need.....	24
3.1.26 RMP Revision Process.....	24
3.1.27 Mitigation Measures	24
3.1.28 Cumulative Impacts	24
3.1.29 Regulatory Compliance.....	25
3.2 Issues Raised That Will Not Be Addressed	25
3.3 Valid Existing Management to be Carried Forward	25
3.4 Special Designations and Nominations	25

<i>Section</i>	<i>Page</i>
3.5 Future Decisions to be Made	25
3.5.1 Future RMP-Level Decisions	26
3.5.2 Future Implementation Decisions	26
4.0 DATA SUMMARY AND DATA GAPS.....	27
5.0 SUMMARY OF FUTURE STEPS IN THE PLANNING PROCESS	27
APPENDIX A SCOPING COMMENT SUMMARIES	
APPENDIX B SCOPING LETTERS	
APPENDIX C COMMENTS RECEIVED POST SCOPING COMMENT PERIOD	
APPENDIX D FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE OF INTENT	
APPENDIX E SCOPING NOTICE	
APPENDIX F PRESS RELEASE AND PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT	
APPENDIX G WEBSITE COMMENT SCREEN	
APPENDIX H SCOPING MEETING SIGN-IN FORM	
APPENDIX I SCOPING MEETING DISPLAY BOARDS	
APPENDIX J SCOPING MEETING FACT SHEETS	
APPENDIX K COMMENT FORM	

TABLES

<i>Table</i>	<i>Page</i>
2-1 Scoping Meeting Times and Locations	4
2-2 Comments Received.....	6
3-1 Comments Per Resource Area.....	8

FIGURES

<i>Figure</i>	<i>Page</i>
1 Kemmerer Field Office Planning Area Ownership/Management.....	2

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) requires the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to develop Resource Management Plans (RMPs) and to update or revise the RMPs when appropriate. The existing Kemmerer RMP was completed in 1986. Since 1986, the Kemmerer RMP has undergone two maintenance action updates. The BLM is revising the 1986 RMP and preparing a supporting Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The Kemmerer Field Office Planning Area (Kemmerer Planning Area) (see Figure 1) includes 1.4 million acres of BLM-administered surface land and 1.6 million acres of BLM-administered mineral estate in Lincoln, Sweetwater, and Uinta counties in southwestern Wyoming. The revised RMP will provide future direction for managing BLM-administered lands within the Kemmerer Planning Area.

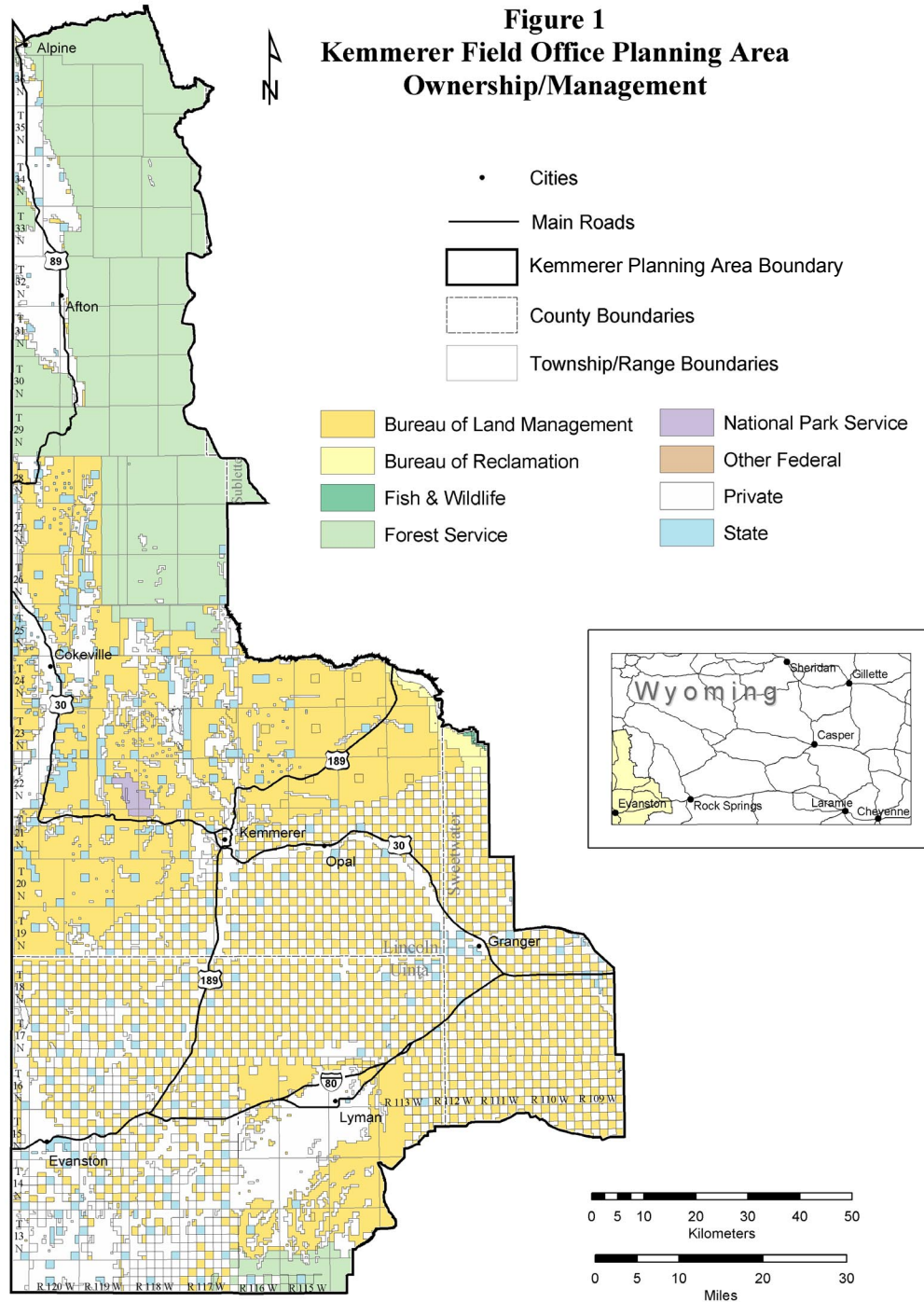
This scoping report describes the public involvement process (Section 2.0), which includes a discussion of the public notification process, descriptions of the scoping meetings, a summary of the opportunities provided for public comments, and a list of cooperating agencies and federally-recognized tribes. This scoping report also provides a summary of comments submitted to the BLM during the comment period (Section 3.0) and a summary of data gaps identified to date (Section 4.0). A summary of the next steps involved in the Kemmerer RMP revision process is provided in Section 5.0.

2.0 THE SCOPING PROCESS

Public involvement is an integral part of revising the RMP and preparing the EIS. The Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) Scoping Guidance defines scoping as the "process by which lead agencies solicit input from the public and interested agencies on the nature and extent of issues and impacts to be addressed and the methods by which they will be evaluated."

BLM's planning regulations 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1601-1610 and CEQ's regulations 40 CFR 1500-1508 incorporate the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements for public involvement and scoping. In 43 CFR 1501.7 and 1506.6, the CEQ describes what the federal agency must do as part of the scoping process to involve the public. BLM Manual Section 1790 and Handbook H-1790-1 set forth BLM policies and guidance for complying with CEQ Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508) and the Department of the Interior's (DOI) Manual (516 DM 1-7) on implementing NEPA. BLM Handbook H-1610 gives direction for conducting public scoping meetings and Washington Office Information Bulletin 2003-020 gives guidance on what information may be included in the scoping report.

The intent of the scoping process is to provide ample opportunity for the collaborators (tribal, state, and local governments; other federal agencies; stakeholders; and the general public) to learn about and comment on the RMP revision. Scoping is not an isolated action; rather, it brings together collaborators early in the process; identifies significant issues, alternatives and potential impacts to be addressed; and identifies assignments among lead and cooperating agencies. This process ensures that the RMP revision and EIS address significant issues important to the people who will be affected by BLM's decisions.



Kemmerer RMP Revision Scoping Report

Scoping for the Kemmerer RMP revision took place from June 16, 2003 to November 26, 2003. BLM resource planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.2) only require a 30-day scoping period; however, the Kemmerer RMP revision scoping period remained open for five months.

In the Federal Register Notice of Intent (NOI) and during scoping, preliminary planning issues and criteria were identified by BLM personnel, other agencies, and in meetings with individuals. These planning issues and criteria will be used to guide the identification and development of management alternatives. Preliminary planning issues and criteria may be refined or new ones added as a result of the public scoping process.

While the scoping report identifies potentially significant issues, the document does not make decisions nor does it set forth policies. The scoping report summarizes the comments received by BLM up to the close of the scoping period, November 26, 2003. Comments received during the scoping period are summarized by revision topic in Appendix A. A complete set of comments is included in Appendix B. Comments received after November 26, 2003 are not summarized in the scoping report, but are included in Appendix C. The BLM will work to ensure that these late comments are incorporated in the next phase of the RMP revision process to the extent possible. To that effect, the BLM is always open to accepting comments at any time during the RMP revision process and will work to ensure that these comments are incorporated into the next phase of the Kemmerer RMP revision process.

2.1 Notifications

Federal Register Notice of Intent

The initiation of the scoping process began with the publication of the NOI to revise the Kemmerer RMP and prepare a supporting EIS in the Federal Register (see Appendix D). The NOI, published June 16, 2003, includes preliminary planning issues and criteria. Although the NOI indicates that the BLM can most effectively use public comments and resource information submitted within 30 days of the publication, the scoping period for the Kemmerer RMP revision extended beyond the 30-day period to five months.

Scoping Notice

The BLM pursued multiple avenues to notify the public of the various opportunities for involvement in and commenting on the nature and extent of issues and impacts to be addressed in the RMP revision. A scoping notice (see Appendix E) was mailed to 1,104 interested and involved collaborators on October 27, 2003. In the scoping notice, the BLM solicited written comments on the RMP revision process, issues, and invited collaborators to a series of three public scoping meetings, to be held throughout the planning area. The scoping notice also served to remind the public of the opportunity to view the Summary of the Management Situation Analysis (MSA), the project schedule, and other relevant project information on the Kemmerer RMP revision website (www.blm.gov/rmp/kemmerer/). Additionally, the BLM Public Affairs Specialist sent press releases to various newspapers in cities and towns across the planning area and the State of Wyoming. Appendix F provides a sample press release and a list of local and regional media used for public service announcements.

Website

The BLM developed a website to provide collaborators with another tool to find information about the RMP revision process and to provide another input method for public comments. The website, www.blm.gov/rmp/kemmerer, provides current information on the schedule for the RMP revision, relevant and complete documents and notifications, an opportunity to join the mailing list, photographs of the planning area, and an electronic comment form for anyone who wishes to submit comments online (see Appendix G). The Kemmerer RMP revision website went online on October 17, 2003 and will be regularly updated throughout the RMP revision with general project information, published reports, meeting dates, and photographs.

2.2 Scoping Meetings

A series of public meetings was held across the Kemmerer Planning Area in facilities compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Meeting times and locations are listed in Table 2-1. Seventeen individuals attended the meeting in Kemmerer, 23 attendees in Evanston, and 14 attendees in Rock Springs. The three meetings employed an open house format with two formal presentations (3:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.) by the Kemmerer Acting Field Office Manager and Interim Project Team Leader. Each presentation was followed by a question and answer session. Four fact sheets, the Summary of the MSA, and a series of four display boards were provided at each scoping meeting. BLM resource specialists were on hand to personally address questions and provide information to meeting participants. Meeting attendees were encouraged to comment using a variety of media, including written comment forms, flip charts, a planning area map, and a computer kiosk. A sign-in form was also provided to the public at these meetings (see Appendix H).

Table 2-1. Scoping Meeting Times and Locations

Meeting Site	Date	Facility	Time
Kemmerer	November 17, 2003	Lincoln County Library 519 Emerald Street Kemmerer, WY 83101	3 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Evanston	November 18, 2003	Beeman-Cashin Building Depot Square Front and 10 th Street Evanston, WY 82930	3 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Rock Springs	November 19, 2003	BLM Rock Springs Field Office 280 Highway 191 North Rock Springs, WY 82901	3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Displays

Four three-panel, tabletop display boards (see Appendix I) guided meeting participants visually through the RMP revision process. The four display boards included the following:

- a description of the Kemmerer RMP revision and timeline;
- a map of the Kemmerer Planning Area;

Kemmerer RMP Revision Scoping Report

- a list of commonly used acronyms and definitions;
- physical and biological resources information;
- resource uses of the planning area;
- fire management in the planning area;
- special land use designations; and,
- socioeconomic conditions in Lincoln, Sweetwater, and Uinta counties.

Fact Sheets

Four fact sheets were prepared to provide an overview of the Kemmerer RMP revision process and can be found in Appendix J. The fact sheets provided the following:

- *The RMP Revision Process* – briefly summarized the RMP revision and described acronyms and definitions commonly used in the planning process.
- *How You Can Participate* – provided a step-by-step description of how interested members of the public can be involved in the revision process.
- *Preliminary Planning Issues* – included the preliminary issues documented in the Federal Register NOI.
- *RMP Revision Topics* – listed the resources, resource uses, and other topics that will be considered in the RMP revision.

All fact sheets were distributed at the scoping meeting, were given to local and statewide media, and were made available at the Kemmerer Field Office. Copies of the four fact sheets remain available at the Kemmerer Field Office and on the website following closure of the public scoping period.

2.3 Opportunities to Comment

Collaborators were provided various opportunities to comment on the BLM's proposed resource issues and preliminary planning criteria. The following is a comprehensive list of methods made available for commenting during the scoping process:

- By mail – Interested parties were invited to submit comments by mail to the BLM Kemmerer Field Office in both the NOI and the scoping notice;
- Online at the Kemmerer RMP revision website – A comment form is available online for those wishing to submit comments electronically;
- By phone – The scoping notice and all four fact sheets included a phone number where interested parties could call and submit comments; and

- At public scoping meetings – Attendees at each of the three scoping meetings were provided the opportunity to submit written comments on a comment form (Appendix K), electronic comments at a computer kiosk, verbal comments to resource specialists who transcribed information onto flip charts, and written comments on maps of the planning area.

The BLM received comments in several formats. Table 2-2 includes an overview of the number of comments received in each format during the scoping period.

Table 2-2. Comments Received

Comment Format	Number of Comments Received
Letters	27
Website Comments	8
Telephone Comments	0
Facilitated Meeting Notes	3
Comment Forms	16

2.4 Cooperating Agencies

The BLM initiated contact with potential collaborating agencies and invited them to become cooperating agencies in the RMP revision (in accordance with CEQ Regulations, 40 CFR 1501.6). These cooperating agencies have begun to assist the BLM by providing information and support in the development of issues. The following federal, state, and local agencies are considered cooperating agencies in the Kemmerer RMP revision:

- Bureau of Reclamation
- State of Wyoming
- Lincoln County Commissioners
- Lincoln County Conservation District
- Sweetwater County Commissioners
- Sweetwater County Conservation District
- Uinta County Commissioners
- Uinta County Conservation District

2.5 Tribal Consultation

The BLM consults with all federally-recognized tribes that have historically and traditionally occupied the land in the planning area and views them as sovereign nations. The BLM has initiated

consultation with the Eastern Shoshone, Shoshone-Bannock, Northern Arapaho, and Northern Ute Tribes in the planning area.

3.0 ISSUE SUMMARIES OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

3.1 Issue Summaries by Resource Revision Topic

The following sections represent a summary of public comments provided to the BLM during the public scoping period. These comments were derived by the methods described in section 2.3.

In order to capture the public's concerns regarding the RMP revision, each comment letter (or other form) was reviewed for content and categorized by revision topic. Key comments were identified and summarized. Many letters had more than one comment. Therefore, the number of these comments is greater than the number of comment letters received. A revision topic (e.g., minerals, grazing, recreation) was assigned to each comment. For example, the impacts of smoke on air quality was identified as an issue. This issue was then categorized under the air quality revision topic. Some comments identified more than one topic. For example, a comment on the impacts of smoke from fire was identified as an air quality comment and also identified as a fire comment. By assigning multiple topics to comments, the BLM ensures the issue will be considered for all relevant revision topics. In addition, some comments were contradictory with one another. For example, some people want to fully protect resources while other people want to use resources to their full extent. Appendix B contains a complete set of scoping letters received by the BLM during the five-month scoping period.

Table 3-1 shows the number of comments received per revision topic in alphabetical order. Following Table 3-1, summaries of scoping comments by revision topic are included. Mineral resources, fish and wildlife, and vegetation received the highest number of comments during the scoping period. RMP revision process, livestock grazing, lands and realty, and social and economic conditions also received a large number of comments.

Comments on mineral resources focused on oil and gas exploration development activities; types of drilling methods; and addressing the compatibility of oil and gas development on other resources and resource uses such as surface water, wildlife, and recreation. Several requests were made to address impacts to specific geographic areas and leasing restrictions. See section 3.1.8 and Appendix A for a summary of comments received on mineral resources.

Comments on fish and wildlife focused on developing measures to protect wildlife and their habitat from other resources such as oil and gas exploration, OHV use, roads, and grazing. Other comments included addressing balancing critical habitat with AUM use; overuse of habitat by wildlife; and multiple use.

Comments on vegetation focused on addressing the prevention and treatment of invasive and non-native plant species on disturbed areas, and the impacts to riparian and wetland areas from OHV use, wildlife, and grazing. Comments also included addressing the use of fire as a management tool to eradicate invasive nonnative plant species to restore native species.

Table 3-1. Comments Per Resource Area

Resource Topic	Number of Comments	Resource Topic	Number of Comments
Air Quality	27	Special Designations	46
Cultural Resources	41	Special Status Species	48
Fire Management	28	Transportation and Access	25
Fish and Wildlife	100	Utility and Communication Corridors	1
Geology	4	Vegetation	76
Lands and Realty	55	Visual Resources	23
Livestock Grazing	65	Water Resources	46
Mineral Resources	162	Alternatives	*
National Historic Trails	17	Content and Methodology	*
Off-Highway Vehicles	42	Purpose and Need	*
Paleontology	5	RMP Revision Process	70
Recreation	14	Mitigation Measures	12
Renewable Energy	11	Cumulative Impacts	24
Social and Economic Conditions	55	Regulatory Compliance	14
Soil	10		

Note: * Comments under this heading are included in the specific resource topic

3.1.1 Air Quality

The air quality resource section of the RMP revision will include a discussion of emission sources (e.g., smoke and dust) that can affect air quality and visibility. Comments focused on impacts from fire and smoke, visibility of special land uses (i.e., historic trails, Class I areas), clarifications to the Summary of the MSA, and compliance with air quality regulatory requirements. There were 27 comments related to air quality all of which appear in Appendix A. A summary of the comments follows.

- Address the issue of regional haze and the destruction of viewsheds.
- Consider adding provisions to implement the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA's) No Degradation policy under the Clean Air Act (CAA).
- Assess the potential adverse public health effects associated with cumulative emissions of fine particles and fine particle precursors from the current and proposed sources of fine particles.
- The BLM should perform an adequate regional analysis to demonstrate that future impacts resulting from oil and gas development would not significantly impact air quality.

3.1.2 Cultural Resources

The cultural resources section in the RMP revision will include a discussion of historic and prehistoric artifacts, buildings, and structures; mines, trails, railroads, ditches; historic landscapes and trash dumps; and archeological sites. Cultural resources may also include Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP), which are properties that are critical to a living community's beliefs, customs, and

Kemmerer RMP Revision Scoping Report

practices. Cultural resources comments focused on surveying and protecting cultural resources, regulatory compliance, and ensuring Native American consultation. There were 41 comments related to cultural resources all of which appear in Appendix A. A summary of the comments follows.

- Ensure compliance with state and federal regulations, the BLM Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) manual, and FLPMA mandates.
- Retain the existing RMP measures to protect National Historic Trails until the Wyoming Historic Trail Management Plan is completed.
- Develop timely and proactive measures to protect and provide for historic and archeological resources through additional surveys, evaluation, mapping, and other protective measures.
- Outline specific management actions (such as stabilization, fencing, signage, closures, or interpretative development) to protect, conserve and, where appropriate, restore cultural resources.
- Analyze the impacts of livestock on archeological, cultural, and historic resources.
- Incorporate specific cultural management plans into alternative development and outline cultural issues and areas of potential interest at the outset of the RMP process.
- Integrate President Bush’s “Preserve America” stewardship mandates into the RMP.
- Provide an in-depth overview and situational analysis of Kemmerer BLM-managed cultural resources.
- Attach cultural resource restrictions and stipulations for areas open for oil and gas development outside of the buffer zone protection area.
- Restrict activities by applying No Surface Occupancy (NSO) restrictions or other enforceable stipulations adequate to prevent all impacts to the historic and archeological sites and historic viewsheds of National Historic Trail.
- Conduct sufficient historic research to identify all of the potential uses in the project area before artifacts and structures are interpreted and characterized.
- Measures to protect historic and archeological sites and historic viewsheds should not be unreasonable or cause economic hardship.

3.1.3 Fire Management

The fire management resource section in the RMP revision will include a discussion of naturally occurring fires and prescribed burns as well as fire suppression techniques. The majority of comments focused on developing a comprehensive fire management policy recognizing fire as both a natural disturbance on the landscape level, as well as a viable management tool for area-specific

habitat enhancement activities. There were 28 comments related to fire management all of which appear in Appendix A. A summary of the comments follows.

- Consider impacts from fire (e.g., public health, smoke).
- Examine multiple management tools, including prescribed fires, pre- and post-treatment management, and treatment for weeds.
- Consider including impacts of fire on other resources (e.g., sage grouse, sagebrush, and aspen).
- There should be cooperation and coordination with other land management agencies, such as the United States Forest Service (USFS), regarding forestry health, forest restoration, and fires.
- Include post-fire management practices such as restoring burned areas with native vegetation and developing measures to hinder noxious weed invasion.

3.1.4 Fish and Wildlife

The fish and wildlife section of the RMP revision will include a discussion of fish species and fisheries habitat. It will also include vertebrate wildlife species that occur in the planning area including reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals. Threatened, endangered, sensitive, or other special status species will be addressed under a separate section. There were 100 comments related to fish and wildlife all of which appear in Appendix A. A summary of the comments follows.

- The RMP should discuss direct, indirect, long-term, and cumulative impacts to wildlife species resulting from oil and gas and coalbed methane development.
- Permitted mineral activity requires consultation and approval from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD), BLM and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Increased and conflicting regulatory burdens are being placed by the BLM for wildlife concerns on the same activities after the fact.
- The increasing rate of potentially damaging development across public lands makes mitigation of impacts to fish and wildlife increasingly important in project planning.
- Reasonably foreseeable development (RFD) scenarios should be based on baseline data and ongoing monitoring.
- Require no net loss of big game transitional and winter ranges throughout the Kemmerer Resource Area. Fully explore the possibility of off-site mitigation regarding no net loss of big game transitional and winter ranges.
- The crucial winter habitat map is a generalization that covers vast expanses of the resource area. Where detailed monitoring information is available and indicates otherwise, the

Kemmerer RMP Revision Scoping Report

boundaries should be adjusted to properly portray the actual crucial winter habitat for big game species.

- Provide for the protection of sage grouse, white-tailed prairie dogs, pygmy rabbits, raptors, native amphibians and the habitats required of each of these species in the RMP.
- Examine existing stipulations and protection of raptors to determine their effectiveness and modify them if needed. Ensure compliance with the Bald Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- Provide a list of species in the resource area, disclose monitoring, population, and habitat data in regard to each species, and adopt mitigation measures to protect each of these species from any development approved by the RMP.
- Protection of sport fisheries and the economic benefits from fish and wildlife should be considered in the RMP.
- The effects of roads and fences on fish and wildlife species should be considered and addressed in the RMP.
- The BLM should responsibly manage forage production. Livestock and wildlife numbers should be considered when managing range resources.
- Water sources should be available for wildlife as well as livestock and protected from adverse impacts of livestock.
- Predators should be monitored and landowners compensated.
- Wildlife should be managed with consideration of existing resources and other multiple uses and resource damage should not be allowed due to wildlife populations. Conflicts between uses should be resolved through a locally led, collaborative management process and public education program.
- Some areas get no grazing pressure yet critical wildlife habitats are being overgrazed.
- Off-highway vehicles (OHV) destroy crucial habitat.
- Deer, elk and pronghorn numbers are above objective in the west Green River area. Too many elk are wintered and too many pronghorn are summered in the area.
- Avoid the native species mentality in wildlife management.
- Measures should be implemented to protect raptors from collisions with windmills during spring and fall migrations.
- Fewer animal unit months (AUMs) should be permitted on allotments for the benefit of wildlife.

3.1.5 Geology

The geology resource section of the RMP revision will include a discussion of physiography, earthquakes, landslides, topography, floods, snow slides, and slumps. Comments on geology focused on industrial floodplain development, roads located in the floodplains, and addressing impacts from seismic exploration activities. There were four comments related to geology all of which appear in Appendix A. A summary of the comments follows.

3.1.6 Lands and Realty

The BLM lands and reality section of the RMP revision will include a discussion of rights-of-way for pipelines, utilities, and roads; land acquisition and disposal; easements; withdrawals; land use authorizations; and trespass identification and abatement. Comments ranged from multiple use land management and preserving public lands to specific methods of land management such as land exchanges or easements. Several requests or comments regarding specific geographic areas, resources, or resource uses were provided. There were 55 comments related to lands and realty all of which appear in Appendix A. A summary of the comments follows.

- Consider existing lease agreements and other programs such as easements, land exchanges, allotments, withdrawals, disposals, split estate issues; exemptions and exceptions to lease stipulations; and land tenure. Consider how those might be impacted by new decisions.
- Consider restrictions on leasing during the RMP revision process and/or if the RFD estimate has been exceeded; regulations related to timing of lease offerings; public participate in development and exploration activities; and private surface landowner protection policies.
- Take into account private property rights, preservation of public land, resource conservation, minimal regulations, multiple use management, and mitigations for development in the RMP revision.
- Include programs such as land tenure adjustment or exchanges (e.g., accelerated exchanges or exchanges to groups such as the Nature Conservancy or Wyoming State Parks) to mitigate issues associated with isolated tracts of land (e.g., access, trespass).
- Include applicable laws and regulations in RMP revision and EIS development.
- Consider access to lands (both state and private) surrounded by public land.
- Continue coordination with county governments specifically related to county comprehensive plans and coordination with federal and state agencies such as the WGFD.

3.1.7 Livestock Grazing

The livestock grazing section of the RMP revision will include a discussion of grazing allotment issues, grazing leases, range improvement projects, livestock fences, livestock reservoirs, springs, water wells, and vegetative treatments. The majority of comments on livestock grazing focused on collaborative grazing plan development, providing for range management infrastructure, overgrazing, and the economic significance of grazing. Several comments regarding specific

Kemmerer RMP Revision Scoping Report

geographic areas were provided. There were 65 comments related to livestock grazing all of which appear in Appendix A. A summary of the comments follows.

- Monitor grazing activities to ensure that standards and guidelines are met, adherence to the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Safe Drinking Water Act, and that cultural and wildlife resources are not adversely impacted.
- The RMP should analyze, recognize, and discuss the economic significance of grazing, especially to local communities.
- The RMP should encourage cooperative, collaborative, and locally led development of grazing management plans.
- Specific requests for limiting grazing were made for the following areas: Raymond Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA), Wheat Creek Meadows, and the narrow strip between private land along Lincoln County Road #306.
- Driving livestock through sage grouse nesting areas during the nesting period may cause hens to abandon nests.
- BLM lands are being overgrazed.
- The BLM should compensate for private AUMs that cannot be utilized due to restrictions.
- The RMP should provide for the construction and maintenance of infrastructure necessary for the proper management of livestock grazing (e.g., pasture fences, water developments, vegetative treatments).
- Periodic reviews should be scheduled to evaluate and change the classification of allotments if conditions warrant.
- Critical winter range should be fenced to exclude livestock or grazing limitations should be imposed.
- Livestock grazing is a sound range management tool.
- Consider livestock and wildlife numbers when managing range resources.

3.1.8 Mineral Resources

The mineral resources section of the RMP revision will include a discussion of leasable, locatable, and salable minerals. Leasable minerals within the planning area include oil and gas, trona, coal, and coalbed methane. Uranium and bentonite represent some of the locatable minerals in the planning area. Salable minerals include sand and gravel, clay, limestone, and decorative stone. Comments on mineral resources included oil and gas development and exploration; drilling methods; surface or water resource disturbance; and potential impacts to other resources or resources uses such as wildlife and recreation. Several requests or comments regarding particular geographic areas,

resources, or resource uses were provided. Specific comments on the content of the minerals sections in the Summary of the MSA were provided and will be considered throughout the RMP revision. There were 162 comments related to mineral resources all of which appear in Appendix A. A summary of the comments follows.

- Consider oil and gas extraction activities in alternative development.
- Consider sufficient potential development in RFD.
- Include applicable laws and regulations in RMP revision and EIS development.
- Incorporate the Energy Policy and Conservation Act inventory results.
- Consider restrictions on leasing during RMP revision process and/or if the RFD estimate has been exceeded; limits on oil and gas development; regulations related to timing of lease offerings; public participation in development and exploration activities; and private surface landowner protection policies.
- Prepare an RFD that balances energy development with the protection of other natural resources.
- Identify the desired outcomes from oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development considering resources and resource uses such as endangered species protection, wildlife, prevention of habitat fragmentation, landscape and aesthetic appeal, air and water pollution prevention, revegetation, noxious weeds, and protection of surface owner rights.
- Protect and enhance opportunities to explore and develop oil and gas, including new technology, restriction of surface uses, and reduced access to portions of public lands.
- Incorporate techniques including directional drilling, pit-less drilling; consolidation of apparatuses and hardware, underground cauldrons, consolidation of road networks, reclamation of surface disturbance, and lease stipulations regarding pad spacing to reduce impacts to surface resources.
- Address coalbed methane related to surface development and water resources such as fisheries.
- Incorporate into the RMP revision: methods to calculate disturbance; mitigation measures; monitoring programs; methods of conflict resolution; and accomplishing reclamation.
- Consider existing lease agreements and lease stipulations and how they might be impacted by new decisions.
- Continue to consult with applicable federal and state agencies.

- Consider the relationship between surface land management and subsurface resource development, including the compatibility of exploration and development activities with the multiple-use and recreational uses mandate as well as multiple mineral development.
- Evaluate potential socioeconomic impacts, access to public land, and other considerations closely related to mineral development.
- Consider state land development for subsurface resources.
- Address foreseeable level of oil and gas development and potential impacts to other resources and resource uses.
- Reestablish disturbed land from oil and gas development.
- Identify all areas where mineral development exists.
- Follow guidelines to minimize possibility of a mining disaster in the planning area.
- Seed areas around areas where rock is harvested.
- Provide sources of gravel and fill material near cities and towns.
- Consider development of a statement of adverse energy impacts for each alternative and include impact of timing restrictions, the impact of designated areas excluded from energy development, and the costs to development and consumers with mandates of alternative drilling technologies.
- Evaluate the unique impacts of coalbed methane development.
- Address the use of hydraulic fracturing and impacts of drilling fluids and chemical use.
- Include a realistic assessment and analysis of oil and gas well plugging, abandonment, reclamation, and enforcement needs and problems.

3.1.9 National Historic Trails

The National Historic Trails section of the RMP revision will include trails associated with overland migration, frontier military activities and early transportation, including the Oregon, Mormon Pioneer trails. The majority of comments on National Historic Trails focused on compliance with regulations, protecting the viewshed of historic trails, and consideration of economic interests while protecting historic properties. There were 17 comments related to National Historic Trails all of which appear in Appendix A. A summary of the comments follows.

- Ensure compliance with state and federal regulations, the BLM CRMP manual, and FLPMA mandates.

- Retain the existing RMP measures to protect National Historic Trails until the Wyoming Historic Trail Management Plan is completed.
- Ensure viewshed protection for National Historic Trails within the planning area.
- Develop a clear definition of National Historic Trail viewshed, and consider a definition that doesn't insist that preservation of visual characteristics be identical to those that existed during historic times.
- Address how windfarms will impact the viewshed of National Historic Trails.
- Identify how much of the areas designated as National Historic Trails are rutted due to more modern use.
- Develop measures to protect, identify, and provide for National Historic Trails.
- Access restriction associated with the preservation of significant resource values associated with National Historic Trails should not preclude an operator's right to develop its leases.
- The pattern of National Historic Trails closely paralleling existing roads and running close to towns makes it difficult for commercial development (e.g., gas and oil or wind energy) to have a place to work.

3.1.10 Off-Highway Vehicles

The OHV section of the RMP revision will include a discussion of OHV access, user conflicts, and trails for OHV use and/or restrictions. The OHV comments mainly related to the management of OHV use; planning for when and where OHV and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use can occur or will be restricted; overall transportation planning; and the maintenance or reduction of roads specifically for OHV. Several requests or comments regarding particular geographic areas, resources, or resource uses were provided. There were 42 comments related to OHVs all of which appear in Appendix A. A summary of the comments follows.

- Include programs and management to meet regulatory compliance such as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).
- Examine multiple management tools, including monitoring and educational programs, road surfacing, designating use areas, and closure and temporary closure.
- Development of additional OHV trails and open OHV areas.
- Limit additional OHV trails.
- Address noise from OHV within the planning area.

3.1.11 Paleontology

The paleontology section of the RMP revision will include a discussion of fossils, dinosaur remains, paleontological digs, and research permits. There were five comments related to this resource all of which appear in Appendix A. The comments focused on BLM's multiple-use mandate that requires land managers to consider the value of cultural and paleontological resources in their decision-making process; and addressing the Archaeological Resource Protection Act.

3.1.12 Recreation

The recreation section of the RMP revision includes a discussion of sightseeing, touring, hiking, mountain biking, backpacking, photography, wildlife viewing, camping, fishing, and hunting. Comments on recreation focused on providing recreational opportunities in a wilderness setting. Several comments also addressed the compatibility with oil and gas exploration. Other comments were closely related to the OHV comments such as creating special OHV trails and areas (refer to section 3.1.10). There were 14 comments related to recreation all of which appear in Appendix A. A summary of the comments follows.

- Consider compatible uses such as oil and gas exploration and development and semi-primitive recreation.
- BLM should pursue an active easement acquisition program to provide recreation trails.
- The BLM needs to keep their plans and objectives in compliance with existing multiple use laws and stop closing off areas to recreational use.

3.1.13 Renewable Energy

The renewable energy section of the RMP revision will include a discussion of wind energy, geothermal resources, solar power energy and other renewable sources. Comments on renewable energy included topics such as wind generators and identification of suitable locations for alternative energy development. There were 11 comments related to renewable energy all of which appear in Appendix A. A summary of the comments follows.

- Consider development of a statement of adverse energy impacts for each alternative and include impact of timing restrictions, the impact of designated areas excluded from energy development, costs to development and consumers with mandates of alternative drilling technologies.
- Consider identification of suitable locations for alternative energy development.
- Include a discussion of wind generators.
- Implement seasonal mitigation measures for windmills.
- Consider visual impacts, including potential impacts to National Historic Trails from wind farms.

3.1.14 Social and Economic Conditions

The social and economic conditions of the RMP revision will include health and safety, county level economic development information, and environmental justice. Comments focused on the methodologies to be used for the socioeconomic analysis. Social and economic comments on the Summary of the MSA were also provided and will be considered in the RMP revision. There were 55 comments received during scoping related to social and economic conditions all of which appear in Appendix A. A summary of the comments follows.

- Consider employment and beneficial revenues of mineral development and exploration, hunting and fishing, and other revenues on the counties in the planning area.
- Evaluate potential socioeconomic impacts, access to public land, and other considerations closely related to mineral development.
- Address RFD scenarios in a broader context than just oil and gas development.
- Include the impacts of population growth from mineral exploration and development on other resources (e.g., wildlife).
- Consider economic impacts of livestock grazing.
- Consider the socioeconomic impacts to local communities within the planning area and include Rich County, Utah.
- Consider public health effects of smoke from fires, health and safety issues from wells, and methane migration from coalbed methane production.
- Consider need for road and trail maintenance and OHV use as a public safety issue.
- Analyze impacts to public services that depend upon tax revenues generated by oil and gas operations.

3.1.15 Soil

The soil section of the RMP revision will include a discussion of soil disturbance from mineral extraction, erosion, and surface runoff. The comments on soil focused on implementing the least restrictive management options on surface use and maintaining roads and trails. There were 10 comments related specifically to soil all of which appear in Appendix A. A summary of the comments follows.

- Maintain roads and trails to lessen soil erosion, provide public access and provide for public safety.
- Provide opportunities for development of oil and gas with only necessary restrictions on surface use and the least restrictive mitigation measures.

- Immediate reclamation of areas of surface disturbances should be implemented.
- Consider the effect of the number of wells approved and the number of wells already drilled in the planning area with respect to soils.
- Consider consolidation of road networks and equipment, immediate reclamation of surface disturbances and use of the nine-point drilling techniques to lessen effects of disturbance on habitat fragmentation and other management issues.

3.1.16 Special Designations

The special designations section of the RMP revision will include a discussion of designated areas such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), National Historic Trails, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and WSAs. Comments on special designation focused on protecting wilderness quality and managing specific areas for adequate protection. In addition, many comments addressed the designation and protection of ACECs. There were 46 comments related to special designations all of which appear in Appendix A. A summary of the comments follows.

- Identify and protect lands of wilderness quality.
- Consider including additional acreage for the Raymond WSA.
- Analyze the cumulative effect of special land designations on future management options for land uses such as grazing, mineral production, and vegetation management (prescribed burns or other cultural practices).
- Designation of Special Management Areas (SMAs) should be kept to a minimum in unleased areas and not be allowed to impair existing lease rights.
- The designation of SMAs, areas of limited or no surface use, or areas with seasonal restrictions to development, should be quantified in the EIS in terms of economic impacts to the oil and gas industry.
- Consider ACEC designation for big game wintering areas, migration corridors, special cliff areas, caves, archeological, historical, and paleontological sites.
- Determine which of the eligible segments are suitable for wild and scenic river designation.

3.1.17 Special Status Species

The special status species section in the RMP revision will include a discussion of plant and animal species that are listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). It also includes BLM-designated sensitive species. The comments focused on the status of special status species and their habitat; ensuring compliance with federal and state regulations; and considering multiple uses. There were 48 comments related to special status species all of which appear in Appendix A. A summary of the comments follows.

- Consider individual species and their habitats. Some suggestions include white-tailed prairie dog, pygmy rabbit, black footed ferret, burrowing owl, sage grouse, Colorado River cutthroat trout, Bonneville cutthroat trout, big game crucial ranges, raptor and mountain plover nesting areas, and boreal toad (refer to Appendix A for complete list).
- Provide for the protection of relatively rare species and provide objectives for upward population trends for special status species present or likely to be present in the planning area.
- Ensure compliance with the ESA (especially Section 7 consultation), NEPA, the Bald Eagle Protection Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and other laws, and BLM Planning Manuals and Handbooks, and other planning regulations relative to all listed, proposed and petitioned species, and their critical habitat.
- Review and include/reference conservation agreements, conservation and management plans, and other plans and reports that address special status species and their habitats in the RMP.
- Consider multiple uses when managing for special status species and their habitat and be consistent with state plans for species.
- Do not impact the legitimate efforts of humans by designating every species as special status species.
- Implement management plans for candidate and sensitive species and their habitats and monitor these populations and their habitat to determine if management objectives are being met.
- Use baseline data and ongoing monitoring for special status species when developing an RFD scenario.
- Provide adequate protection for sage grouse, prairie dogs, big game crucial ranges, raptor nesting habitat, and mountain plover nesting sites.
- Address surface disturbing activities on threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant and animal species.

3.1.18 Transportation and Access

The transportation section of the RMP revision will include a discussion of access to public lands, mass transit, and infrastructure management. The majority of these comments focused on ensuring access to public lands for recreational uses, oil and gas and mineral development, and general purposes; and addressing private land trespassing. Several requests or comments regarding particular geographic areas, resources, or resource uses were provided. There were 25 comments related to transportation and access all of which appear in Appendix A. A summary of the comments follows.

- Consider reduced access to public lands for purposes of exploring for and producing oil and gas resources as a separate issue from economic impacts.
- Maintain access to state and private lands surrounded by BLM land.
- Address transportation planning that includes off-road use and considers limits to road construction.
- Include and promote actions such as conservation easements and land exchanges to accomplish management and access.
- Consider public access in realty actions.
- Provide realistic opportunities for the development of oil and gas on federal lands with only necessary restrictions on surface use.
- Address the issue of access and trespassing across private land to reach public lands.
- Ensure protection of historic roads and trails while maintaining allowed uses.
- Provide access point signs and identify property lines so that public land visitors may more effectively use public lands.
- Continue program of access along existing two-track roads and restrictions only when necessary.

3.1.19 Utility and Communication Corridors

The utility and communication corridors section of the RMP revision will include a discussion of power and phone lines, fiber optic lines, rights-of-way, canals, ditches, and cell phone towers. There was one comment related to utility and communications corridors, which appears in Appendix A. The comment focused on energy-related resources needing the ability to cross federal land unencumbered.

3.1.20 Vegetation

The vegetation section of the RMP revision will include grassland and shrubland communities, riparian and wetland vegetation, woodlands and forests, and invasive, nonnative plant species, but will not include special status plants. The comments on vegetation focused on invasive, nonnative plant species, riparian areas, and management tools. There were 76 comments related to vegetation all of which appear in Appendix A. A summary of the comments follows.

- Conserve and restore riparian areas and address Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) objectives and implement the Riparian-Wetland Initiative.
- Incorporate aggressive management techniques and strategies to control the effects and spread of invasive, nonnative plant species.

- Add halogeton to the noxious weed list.
- Use fire as a management tool to eradicate invasive, nonnative plant species, restore native species and seedbanks of native species, and promote stand renewal.
- Address the prevention and treatment of invasive, nonnative plant species on disturbed sites (wells, access roads, pipelines) and throughout the planning area through rehabilitation and revegetation while continuing to provide for mineral production and development.
- Address wildlife and livestock grazing in wetlands and critical winter range, respectively.
- Consider desired outcomes for landscapes and vegetation with respect to desired outcomes for development activities in the planning area.
- Mechanical treatments such as thinning should not be used in wilderness areas or wilderness study areas.
- OHV use and abuse should be addressed, particularly in educating these resource users about the spread of invasive plants.
- Consider forest health and fire issues on a proactive basis.

3.1.21 Visual Resources

The visual resources section in the RMP revision will include a discussion of scenic views, visual quality, Visual Resource Management (VRM), and overlooks. The majority of comments on visual resources focused on monitoring and protecting the visual integrity of historic trails; using various management measures to protect viewsheds; and managing visual resources with equal importance to other resources. There were 23 comments related to visual resources all of which appear in Appendix A. A summary of the comments follows.

- Consider multiple resource management and the compatibility of resources such as VRM, recreational user days and mineral development potential.
- Maintain visual and physical integrity of historic trails.
- Use various oil and gas management activities such as nine-point directional drilling, consolidating apparatuses and road networks, and immediately reclaim disturbance areas to lessen the effects to visual resources.
- Continue to employ management techniques, mitigation measures, and standards to protect visual resources.
- Review Summary of the MSA to address potential discriminatory actions against oil and gas industry in relationship to the protection of views of National Historic Trails.

3.1.22 Water Resources

The water resources section in the RMP revision will include a discussion of water quality and quantity. The focus of comments on water resources was on managing or prohibiting coalbed methane discharge into water bodies; protection of springs and seeps; complying with water quality standards and regulations; and encouraging water developments for livestock and wildlife. There were 46 comments related to water resources all of which appear in Appendix A. A summary of the comments follows.

- Address coalbed methane and other mineral resources related to surface development and water resources, including fisheries and aquatic habitats, habitat fragmentation, roadway impacts such as sedimentation of waterways, and other cumulative impacts and provide mitigation measures for these impacts.
- Include management programs and techniques to protect seeps and springs; develop additional water development for livestock and wildlife; and use best management practices during road construction to reduce impacts to aquatic resources.
- Ensure compliance with all federal and state water quality standards and regulations (i.e., CWA, Safe Water Drinking Act) to protect water resources including fisheries and aquatic habitats, high altitude lakes, and riparian and wetland areas.
- Objectives and future desired conditions for riparian areas should meet and possibly exceed PFC, and access to riparian and wetland areas by motorized vehicles should be limited.
- BLM needs to address water resource issues with the appropriate management agency (i.e., state).
- Development of any RFD scenario should be based on baseline and ongoing monitoring of water quality data.
- Address hydraulic fracturing and drilling fluids and other chemicals in the EIS.
- Address all components of the state's water quality standards, not just the numbers.
- Address the impairment status of rivers.

3.1.23 Alternatives

The alternatives in the RMP revision will include a discussion of formulation of alternatives, definition of alternatives, proposed actions, and preferred alternative. Alternatives will be developed during the next phase of the RMP revision. Comments on alternatives focused primarily on specific resource topics or as a part of the RMP revision process. Refer to the specific resource topics for comments on alternative.

3.1.24 Content and Methodology

The content and methodology category includes the format of the RMP revision; geographic areas addressed in the planning process; analyses included or not included in the planning process; period of analysis; request for additional information; baseline definition; assumptions incorporated in the analysis; and, thoroughness of the analysis. These types of comments can be found under their respective revision topic.

3.1.25 Purpose and Need

The purpose and need section of the RMP revision will include a discussion of BLM goals and the need for RMP revision. The comments that addressed purpose and need were often resource specific or related to the RMP revision process. Therefore, comments regarding purpose and need can be found under the respective revision topic.

3.1.26 RMP Revision Process

The RMP revision addresses NEPA and FLPMA requirements, cooperating agencies, the public involvement process, and the objectivity of documents (Summary of the MSA, RMP, and Draft EIS). The majority of comments focused on conducting the NEPA process legally; avoiding delay in oil and gas activities during the RMP revision; analyzing cumulative effects; and following other BLM mandates. In addition, these comments were also summarized under specific revision topics. There were 70 comments related to RMP revision process all of which appear in Appendix A.

3.1.27 Mitigation Measures

The mitigation measures section in the RMP revision will include a discussion of measures to offset unavoidable impacts. The majority of comments on mitigation measures focused on developing mitigation measures for impacts from oil and gas development and for wildlife habitat. In addition, comments on mitigation measures are summarized under specific resource topics. There were 12 comments related to mitigation measures all of which appear in Appendix A.

3.1.28 Cumulative Impacts

The cumulative impacts section of the RMP revision will include a discussion of the impacts on the environment which would result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such actions (40 CFR 1508.7). The majority of these comments focused on including various management plans from other agencies; impacts associated with the increasing intensity of land uses; and long term development from the oil and gas industry. There were 24 comments related to cumulative impacts all of which appear in Appendix A. A summary of the comments follows.

- The cumulative effects of surface resource management decisions on future subsurface development opportunities.
- The cumulative effect of overlapping federal land use prescriptions and restrictions within the state's surface and subsurface resources requirements.

Kemmerer RMP Revision Scoping Report

- Addressing the cumulative impacts from the existing drought situation.
- The cumulative effects of special land designations on future management options.

3.1.29 Regulatory Compliance

The regulatory compliance category addresses laws, executive orders, regulations and guidelines that will need to be implemented during the RMP revision process. Regulatory compliance comments were also summarized under specific resource topics. Comments related to compliance with Section 106 and 110 of the NHPA; following FLPMA and CEQ mandates and other state and federal laws and regulations. There were 14 comments related to regulatory compliance all of which appear in Appendix A.

3.2 *Issues Raised That Will Not Be Addressed*

At this early phase in the RMP process, comments and issues raised during the scoping period have been summarized in this scoping report. During the alternative formulation phase of the RMP revision, BLM will consider scoping comments within the scope of the RMP revision and refine the preliminary planning issues and criteria. Through this refinement, BLM will determine which issues are to be carried forward and which issues will not be addressed in the RMP revision process.

3.3 *Valid Existing Management to be Carried Forward*

Valid existing management practices that will be addressed in the RMP revision include continuing current management practices and bringing forward management actions from the existing RMP. The BLM will review the validity and applicability of the management practices prior to inclusion in the RMP revision.

3.4 *Special Designations and Nominations*

The BLM received one letter suggesting an expansion of the Raymond Mountain WSA. Expansion of WSAs will not be considered in the RMP revision.

3.5 *Future Decisions to be Made*

This scoping report does not make any decisions, nor does it change current management direction set forth in the existing RMP. It merely summarizes those issues identified during the scoping period for the Kemmerer Planning Area. Issues identified in the scoping report, as well as subsequently identified issues, will be used by BLM and cooperators to help formulate a reasonable range of alternatives during the next phase (i.e., alternative formulation) of the RMP revision process. Each identified alternative (including continuation of existing management) will represent a complete and reasonable plan for managing the Kemmerer Planning Area. BLM's evaluation of identified alternatives will be documented in an EIS prepared as part of the RMP revision process and required by the NEPA.

The FLPMA requires BLM to plan for and manage public lands administered by the Secretary of the Interior, specifically through the BLM. The Kemmerer Planning Area is currently being managed in

accordance with decisions made in and subsequent to the 1986 Kemmerer RMP. Future decisions to be made for the Kemmerer Planning Area will occur at two levels: 1) the RMP level, and 2) the implementation level. In general, only RMP-level decisions will be made as part of the RMP revision process; however, for background, both decision levels are described below.

3.5.1 Future RMP-Level Decisions

Future RMP-level decisions to be made for the Kemmerer Planning Area will be on a broad scale. These decisions will identify management direction and guide future actions for the next 10 to 20 years within the planning area. The revised RMP will present a vision for the Kemmerer Planning Area, providing a comprehensive yet flexible framework for managing the numerous demands on resources managed by BLM.

The vision for the Kemmerer Planning Area will be described in the revised RMP in terms of desired outcomes, also known as desired future conditions. Desired future conditions or outcomes represent one of two categories of RMP-level decisions. The second category of RMP-level decisions involves allowable uses and actions to achieve directed future conditions.

Desired future conditions described in the revised RMP for the planning area are the first category of RMP-level decisions and will be expressed in terms of specific goals, standards, and objectives. Goals are broad statements of desired outcomes (e.g., ensure sustainable development). Standards are descriptions of conditions or the degree of function required (e.g., land health standards). Objectives are specific, quantifiable, and measurable desired conditions for resources (e.g., manage sagebrush communities to achieve a certain canopy cover by the year 2015).

The second category of RMP-level decisions, allowable uses and actions to achieve desired future conditions, will be expressed in the revised RMP as allowable uses, actions needed, and land tenure decisions. Livestock grazing, administrative designations (e.g., ACECs), and land disposal are examples of some RMP-level issues in this category.

3.5.2 Future Implementation Decisions

The revised RMP and associated RMP-level decisions normally do not result in any immediate on-the-ground actions within the Kemmerer Planning Area. The RMP should be implemented to carry out any on-the-ground actions or activities. Implementation decisions are decisions to take action to implement the RMP. Implementation decisions are often referred to as project-level or activity-level decisions and represent BLM's final approval of on-the-ground actions. Implementation decisions require a more detailed site-specific environmental analysis that will tie back to (i.e., tier to) the EIS prepared for the RMP revision. It is noted that in some limited circumstances, site-specific implementation decisions may be made through the RMP revision process.

For the purposes of this scoping report, issues identified during the scoping process are not organized as to the type or category of decision they may relate to. Instead, the issues summarized in the scoping report along with subsequently identified issues, planning criteria, and other information (e.g., occurrence and development potential for minerals) will be used to formulate a reasonable range of alternatives that addresses significant planning issues identified during the RMP revision.

4.0 DATA SUMMARY AND DATA GAPS

Data gaps were not specifically identified during scoping; however, data for Geographic Information System (GIS) layers associated with the Kemmerer Field Office are routinely updated and can be found in the Kemmerer GIS Master Data List.

Missing data sets not identified on the GIS Layer List, but identified by resource specialists include:

- Sage Grouse Brood Rearing Areas – may be obtainable through WGFD
- Stream PFC – incomplete
- Paleontological Sites – incomplete
- Cultural Sites – incomplete
- Visual Resource Inventory – incomplete, requires updates
- OHV Inventory – incomplete
- Wind Potential – complete pending metadata review
- Scenic Byways – complete pending metadata review
- Weeds – being compiled into countywide coverages
- Snowmobile Trails – in progress
- Timber Stands – can digitize from hard copy if deemed necessary
- Walk-in Hunting Areas - not digital

Additional information concerning available data and data gaps may be obtained by contacting the Kemmerer Field Office.

5.0 SUMMARY OF FUTURE STEPS IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

Future steps in the planning process are described briefly in this section and on BLM's website for the RMP revision. Upon the close of the scoping period on November 26, 2003, management alternatives will be developed for detailed impact analysis. In compliance with NEPA, CEQ regulations, and the BLM planning regulations and guidance, alternatives should be reasonable and should be capable of implementation. A detailed analysis of each of these alternatives is anticipated to be conducted and documented and completed by the end of winter 2004.

Based upon the analyses of the alternatives, the Preferred Alternative (i.e., the alternative preferred by BLM) will then be selected and analyzed in detail. The Preferred Alternative is often made up of a combination of management options from the other alternatives that provide the best mix and balance of multiple land and resource uses to resolve the issues with existing management in the planning area.

Next, the Draft EIS for the Kemmerer RMP revision will be prepared throughout 2004. The Draft EIS will in detail analyze possible impacts of each of the proposed alternatives on the existing planning area environment. Once the Draft EIS is completed, a Notice of Availability (NOA) will be issued in the Federal Register which will initiate a formal public review and 90-day comment period to solicit input from tribal, state, and local governments, other federal agencies, and the public (see 43 CFR 1610.2[e]). The issuance of the NOA and the public comment period will take place in winter 2004/2005.

Following the public review and comment period on the Draft EIS, the Final EIS will be prepared in the spring and summer of 2005. Based upon public comment, any new information and correction of errors in the Draft EIS, the Final EIS will present the Proposed RMP decisions, along with the other alternatives.

Another NOA will be issued in the Federal Register for the Final EIS and Proposed RMP in summer of 2005, after which there will be a concurrent 60-day Governor's consistency review and a 30-day protest period on the Proposed RMP and Final EIS. Any protests submitted during this time will be resolved and both the Record of Decision (ROD) for the EIS and the approved RMP decisions, or RMP modification, may be prepared in one document and issued to the public in the summer/fall of 2005. Finally, implementation of the RMP will be initiated in the winter of 2005/2006. RMP implementation is dependent on many factors including available funding.



ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern	VRM	Visual Resource Management
AMP	Allotment Management Plan	WGFD	Wyoming Game and Fish Department
APD	application for permit to drill	WIA	Wilderness Inventory Area
ATV	all-terrain vehicle	WSA	Wilderness Study Area
AUM	animal unit month		
BA	Biological Assessment		
BLM	Bureau of Land Management		
BMP	best management practice		
CAA	Clean Air Act		
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality		
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation Liability Act		
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations		
CRMP	Cultural Resource Management Plan		
CWA	Clean Water Act		
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality		
DOI	Department of the Interior		
EA	Environmental Assessment		
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement		
ESA	Endangered Species Act		
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act		
FP	fine particles		
GIS	Geographic Information System		
LQD	Land Quality Division		
MSA	Management Situation Analysis		
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards		
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act		
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act		
NOA	Notice of Availability		
NOI	Notice of Intent		
NSO	no surface occupancy		
OHV	off-highway vehicle		
PFC	Proper Functioning Condition		
RFD	reasonably foreseeable development		
RMP	Resource Management Plan		
ROD	Record of Decision		
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office		
SMA	Special Management Area		
TCP	Traditional Cultural Properties		
USC	United States Code		
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency		
USFS	United States Forest Service		
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service		